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WESTERN EUROPE — [REDACTED] — INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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[REDACTED]
Phone: 143-6884Belgian Government In Trouble

The intractable linguistic problem once again threatens to create a political crisis in Brussels. Prime Minister Tindemans arrived home from the EC summit in Dublin and plunged into urgent negotiations to try to stabilize the situation. The dispute stems from actions by the French-speaking mayor of the Brussels borough of Schaerbeek who instituted a system of designating separate windows for French and Dutch speakers doing business at city hall.

Last week, a Dutch-speaking opposition party demanded that the national parliament declare the mayor's move illegal and pushed through a resolution referring the question to the interior committee. Tindemans hopes to keep the issue off the floor of parliament by keeping it confined to legal or quasi-legal channels. Before the committee refers the resolution back to parliament, Tindemans hopes he can steer it into the Council of State, where a decision will not lead to a possible collapse of the government.

Although the situation was described by one of Tindemans' aides as "very serious," the large Belgian Socialist opposition party reportedly is not inclined to try to exploit the language issue. The Socialists instead are planning a large rally this weekend for the purpose of exerting pressure on the government to take action to revive the flagging economy. The scattered labor disputes of recent weeks have given way to an industry-wide petroleum workers strike which began yesterday. Earlier slowdowns in the petroleum industry have reduced oil stocks considerably and several retail outlets have already run out.
(Confidential)

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[REDACTED]
Phone: 143-5413Turkish Political Leaders Reject Irmak's Offer

In his second round of talks with party leaders, Sadi Irmak has run into the same difficulties that stymied his effort to form a government last week. Chances of some form of military intervention will greatly increase if Irmak is forced to admit failure and return his mandate to President Koruturk.

So far, party leaders have again rejected a coalition of Turkey's two major parties--the Justice Party and the Republican Peoples Party--or a right-wing coalition. There is a slim chance that Irmak may be able to put together a coalition consisting of Bulent Ecevit's Republican Party and the conservative Democratic Party.

The possibility that efforts to form such a coalition would provoke a split in the Democratic Party were increased over the weekend, however, when over 100 prominent members of the old Democratic Party joined the Justice Party. This move reinforces Suleyman Demirel's claim to the political legacy of the late Prime Minister Menderes and provides added incentive to the Democratic dissidents--some 11 to 19 deputies led by Menderes' son--to bolt the Democratic Party and join the Justice Party. If this occurs, it would dash hopes for a coalition of the Democratic and Republican Peoples Parties.

Such a split would give Demirel's four-party Nationalist Front a majority in parliament but the President would still be reluctant to designate Demirel to form a government. Both Koruturk and the military have opposed a National Front government because they fear that if Demirel comes to power the polarization between right and left would

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increase, provoking renewed public disorders. They are also opposed to the inclusion of the Islamic-based National Salvation Party and the extreme rightist National Action Party in any future government.

The military, meanwhile, continues to exert psychological pressure on the government to end the political stalemate, now in its sixth month. A "precautionary" alert is still in effect, although the military appears willing to give Irmak every chance to form a government. Should he fail, however, the military may see no choice but to step in and force new elections to break the political impasse. (Secret No Foreign Dissem/No Dissem Abroad/Controlled Dissem)

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